

News from the Netherlands



by Jan Woldendorp

Euroguidance in The Netherlands has delivered a research titled "ELGPN PRC5, First exploratory study for Evidence and Quality framework" by R. Punt.

The aim of the study was to investigate the Dutch situation when looking at the Quality-Assurance and Evidence-Based (QAE) Framework, designed by ELGPN. The document focuses on the professional development of career professionals. The status quo in The Netherlands in this field and especially in VET has been investigated and described using desk research and interviews.

In the conclusion the author summarizes: "Using the framework in the way we did in this study reveals some important policy questions that may help policymakers to take well-founded decisions and to conduct a national discussion. The framework also enables a comparison with other countries (...). It is not entirely clear whether this fits in well with the goals of the framework (...). The language used in the framework is ambiguous or multi-interpretable (...). This impairs the usability of the framework."

News from Slovakia

The Department of International Relations of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava has won the "National Prize of Career Guidance 2013 – Honorary Award" for the project "Development and Implementation of Common Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programme and Postgraduate Educational Programme in the European Context – DICBDPEC" that has been carried out within the Erasmus Multilateral Projects programme of the European Union. The project aimed at building coherence in the European Higher Education Area in agreement with the Bologna process and recommendations of Berlin Declaration.

The prize is annually awarded by the Euroguidance Centre of the Slovak Republic,

which is a part of the European Euroguidance network.



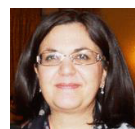
The prize was given to representatives of the international team of the DICBDPEC (and also active members of NICE) Laura Gressnerova and Ivan Prelovský at an international conference held on the occasion of 15th anniversary of founding Euroguidance in Slovakia.

The award was made for the initiative and coordination of the project, based on which Slovakia has also "launched the first common Bachelor and Magister study programme as well as the postgraduate educational programme in the field of career guidance in European context (having involved several European universities and the joint mutually recognized diploma)" and for its emphasis on a "European dimension in education aimed at improvement of qualification, adaptability and mobility".

On this occasion the coordinator of the DICBDPEC project, Laura Gressnerova, was also awarded by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic for "especially successful and long-year activity in the field of development of educational programmes on career guidance".

For more details on the DICBDPEC you can visit: www.ies.stuba.sk/erasmus

News from Italy



by Lea Ferrari

The International Conference "Life Design and Career Counseling: Building Hope and Resilience" was held at the University of Padua from June 20-22 in 2013. The

conference, organized by *Larios Laboratory*, shows the participation of more than 600 delegates, among them many NICE members.

In the first plenary session three speakers took turns: Shane Lopez presented a lecture titled "Hope for tomorrow: Pays off today", Jean Guichard discussed "Forms of reflexivity and transformations of systems of subjective identity forms during life designing dialogues", and Salvatore Soresi invited participants to reflect on the importance of "Helping people build their future".

The second day of the conference was devoted to present different perspectives about the future. Annelies van Vianen discussed "Creating and conserving resources for career self-regulation", Stefano Zamagni won the audience with "What makes the young unemployable and why businesses continue to believe in Taylorism", Michael Wehmeyer presented "Beyond pathology: Positive psychology and disability" and Luciano L'Abate underscored "The future is now: Online interventions are here to stay and to grow".



In the morning, Christiane Schiersmann presented the results of the first three years of NICE and the goals of NICE 2, underlining the importance of a European effort in this field.

The plenary session of the last day was dedicated to career adaptability and Life Designing. Maria Eduarda Duarte coordinated the international Symposium in which Mary McMahon, Guðbjörg Vilhjálmisdóttir, Marcelo Ribeiro, Frederick Leong, Catherine Ott-Holland, and Laura Nota discussed the issue of "Adaptability and personal promotion". Finally, Mark Savickas led the participants to reflect on "Life Designing: Balancing work and love".

Both in plenary sessions and in the parallel and posters sessions, with more than 300 contributions, there was a great interest in the

topics addressed and a lively desire to participate by all delegates. A central insight that emerged through the debates was that in times of high uncertainty, such as those we are experiencing, even the theoretical models and the professional practices of those involved in choice and life designing must radically change and deal with the promotion of well-being and quality of life of those more exposed to the deleterious effects that the crisis is causing in different parts of the world.

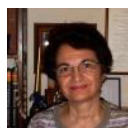
At the end of the conference Jean-Pierre Dauwalder, president of the European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling (ESVDC) awarded two young researchers who have distinguished themselves with their research projects, Aysenur Buyukgoze-Kavas from Turkey, and Maria Chiara Pizzorno from Italy.



Professor Dauwalder also awarded Salvatore Soresi for his scientific and human contribution in this area of investigation and activity on behalf of the ESVDC.

Through the Larios Website (<http://larios.psy.unipd.it/ze-index.php>) you can take a look at photos and videos of the conference and the cross-cultural research which the International Hope Research Team has triggered in several countries. Those of you who are interested in this research are welcome to join!

News from Greece



by Despina Sidiropoulou-Dimakakou



& Nikos Drosos

More than 400 career counseling and guidance practitioners attended the training

seminars that were co-organized by the *National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP)* and the *Career Counseling Research & Assessment Center of the University of Athens (KEAES)*. The training seminars took place on November of 2013 in Athens and Thessaloniki and aimed at helping practitioners face new challenges, such as the socioeconomic changes and the major financial crisis, the sharp increase of unemployment, the large number of immigrants, the development of technology, etc. Professor Despina Sidiropoulou-Dimakakou, director of KEAES, was the scientific responsible of the training seminars.

Trainees had the opportunity to attend several workshops and get updated regarding new trends in career counseling.

The workshops focused on (a) current career counseling approaches, such as narrative counseling, planned happenstance, solution focused brief career counseling etc., (b) methods and techniques for the development of new characteristics and skills (e.g. openness to uncertainty, flexibility, entrepreneurship skills, decision making and problem solving skills), (c) multicultural career counseling, (d) implementation of a new Career Adaptability Program for adolescents and university students that was developed by KEAES, (e) new career patterns, e.g. protean careers, kaleidoscope careers, portfolio careers, etc., (f) work-life balance, and (h) career counseling for recently unemployed. The high professional and academic level of both trainers and trainees guaranteed the great success of the seminars.



European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling



by Laura Nota

As of October 1st, 2013 the European Commission is funding a project to set up a European doctoral school specializing on Career Guidance & Counselling with 400.000 Euros.

The project is a joint venture of the European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling (ESVDC) and the Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE), which is funded by the Erasmus programme from 2009-2015. It is lead by Laura Nota from the University of Padua and Johannes Katsarov, Coordinator of NICE, together with 5 colleagues: Valérie Cohen-Scali from CNAM-INETOP in Paris, Rachel Mulvey from the University of East London, Jérôme Rossier from the University of Lausanne, Rie Thomsen from the Aarhus University in Copenhagen, and Peter Weber from the Heidelberg University. Altogether, more than 25 colleagues from the NICE network are involved in the project, which brings together higher education institutions from 15 European countries.

Until September 2016, the project consortium will conduct three summer schools to provide international doctoral training and networking opportunities to about 25 doctoral researchers from all around Europe. The first summer school will be hosted by the University of Padua in September 2014. Aspiring researchers will be able to discuss their research approaches and findings with peers and professors from different disciplinary backgrounds. Workshops will be offered to introduce the participants to state-of-the-art research methods and innovative theories, giving them the chance to expand their perspectives and their capacity for interdisciplinary research. Further training will support the doctoral researchers in developing their teaching and leadership skills.